Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I think there are very few cases where the whole is not prescribed. If a book is prescribed, the whole has to be taught. There are very few cases. I don't think Government have any objection to extend the period from 3 to 5. Even as it is, there are several books that enjoy not only three years but six years and even more.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But that period should come into force after the present books are changed. We don't want to be the hump of the camel having water. We want the period should be extended to five years. We all agree. That is a Party question.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—That does not mean that the books that are now prescribed should necessarily be continued if they are found to be useless. Prescribe good text-books. Let them have a sufficiently long lease of life. I want to make this matter clear. I should not be understood to say that, if the present text-books are found unsatisfactory, they should be continued.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—We don't press for the same books to be continued. An efficient committee may be appointed and the books they select should be put in the schools for five years here. We don't want to perpetuate the same thing. That is the distinct understanding.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—On that assurance, I withdraw the motion.

(*The motion was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

Motion No. 15.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—*To reduce the total allotment for "Education" of Rs. 12,01,166 by Rs. 29,000.*

(*The motion was, the Member being absent, considered withdrawn.*)

Question put:—*That a sum of Rs. 12,01,166 minus Rs. 10 under "Demand No. XVIII—Education" be granted by the House.*

Question put and agreed to.

Questions and Answers.—(*cont.*)

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I shall take this opportunity of answering the Member for Jews.

What happened was that the contractor complained saying that his dues were held up. That petition of the contractor was forwarded to me for report and this is the letter that I received to the reference of the Government on the contractor's petition.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No, sir, my only point is when did the Government find that it was impossible to find money by means of transfers or by means of savings.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—This letter is dated 31st May 1928 and I wrote:— "I have the honour to inform you

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

that the allotment made in the budget is only Rs. 1,600 as against the estimate Rs. 5,400, *i. e.*, the revised budget. As it was not possible to find source for the excess as ordered in Diwan's Proceedings, dated 7th August 1927, additional allotments had to be applied for. Payment out of the budget provision has been made and the bill referred to in the petition as well as other bills referred are kept in abeyance pending sanction of additional allotment applied for which is the delay in the payment of the bill. I request the Diwan will be pleased to sanction the additional allotment applied for as early as possible." And then, orders of the Government on that: "The additional allotment of Rs. 5,893—6—4 applied for "18 Cranganur, Public Works" is sanctioned under the Emergency Clause of the Legislative Council Regulation."

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That was the reply. Thank you. May I know whether you made any statement in your report, *i. e.*, in the Chief Engineer's report to the Government that the contractor has to be paid by a particular date ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—As soon as possible. Then there was a delay. That man had come to me and he went to the Government and Government asked me why I did not pay.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—There was a petition from the contractor. When was the work completed ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—It was not completed.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why should we pay the whole of the amount before the work was actually completed ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—We had promised to pay. One of the conditions of the contract is that we should pay monthly. We pay every month for what he has done. It is not a lump sum contract.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why was not that matter brought to the notice of the Government in 1927 if you were paying monthly?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—We paid him up to the allotment of Rs. 1,600 and then we stopped payment.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—When was the stopping of payment made ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—But you see this is dated 11th May 1928. I stopped payment when the budget was exhausted. The budget was exhausted only by May. This is the reply to the letter on the petitions of the contractor.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Up to that date were you paying him monthly for the work that has been done in the month ? Then there was no amount due to him. If you were paying him up to that date, no amount could possibly have been due to him.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—The man has carried on some work. He goes on with the work and then a bill comes and we pay him something. We exhausted our budget and we could not pay.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—What I want to elucidate is whether, according to the contract to pay him monthly for the work, he has done, and whether the same has been check-measured ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—We don't abide by that. The man does not abide by it. We tell him that he must make proportionate progress. The general understanding is that we must pay him every month. Sometimes he does not do work and sometimes we don't pay. I paid him up to Rs. 1,600.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, when that report was made, how many rupees was till due to him ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I cannot say.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Did your report mention that so many rupees was due to him ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—The man was going on with the work. I paid him up to Rs. 1,600.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know what was the amount due to him according to his petition ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—He petitioned that his amount was not paid. Are you asking for the contractor or are you asking on principle ?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—He is asking for information.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I cannot say how much work was done.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know when that petition was forwarded to you and whether you made any report that so much money was due to him ? Is there any petition from him that the amount is not paid to him ? What is the amount that is due to him ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Nothing was said in the petition.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then there is no delay in paying him ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Nothing. The work was going on. I paid him up to the end of May.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We quite understand. You paid Rs. 1,600 and after that you told him we have to represent matters to the Government. Meanwhile he was going on with the work. At the date when he petitioned to the Government, what was the amount that was due to him ? There must be a valuation statement taken. I don't know whether that was done. Does not the Department check-measure every month ? Did not the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Department check-measure after that petition came and what was the amount that was found due to him ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I think money has been paid to him since May 1927.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I want you to kindly give information. I want to know the reason for including it in the emergency Statement, and whether there was such an emergency as to pay the whole amount. Still the work is not finished. So the whole of the balance is not due to him.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Practically the whole of the thing is due to him now. He came and asked me. The Department found that the whole amount was due, that the whole work was finished. And, therefore, I can say, practically, to-day the whole of the estimate amount is due.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know when he finished that work, roughly ? Whether in this month or in the last month ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Last month, he said that something was going on. That is in the month of July.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know roughly the date, Sir ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I am giving from memory. The man asked me to go there and see. That was a couple of weeks ago.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, we have got very good chance to point out. This Statement was placed on the second July under Emergency Clause.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—He may ask for whatever information he wants.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I must apply for the whole thing. I expected the work to be finished.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The only point that I wanted to bring out was that this Statement was placed on the 2nd July in the House, and there was no necessity to place such a Statement and pass such an order because the work was not fully over. By that time, his title to the money did not arise and the duty of the Government to pay him immediately did not also arise. Therefore, I wish to know the circumstances under which that Statement was placed.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—That is not a supplementary question. This is a discussion.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I asked for the reasons.

Voting of Demands for Grants—(*contd.*).

Demand No. XXIX—Scientific, etc., Departments—Rs. 1,28,000.

President.—Demand No. XXIX.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly